

MR. SHEA: Thanks, George. But I'm here today as a representative of IUE. That's the International Union of Electronic Workers. Another way I could introduce myself is I used to be with the International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers, and obviously we changed our name, because we don't make radios anymore in this country. I think that's where I'll start.

When I started out in the labor movement in 1966, we had a real problem with all our work going overseas in the electronic industry, and we cried, and we cried, and nobody would listen. Well, right now, I don't have to tell anybody in this room most electronics is made overseas. Very few TVs are made here, and you ask yourself what happened to the people?

In my day, we had a Westinghouse plant right here in east Pittsburgh, down in the valley, which we represented 13,000 people. We now have 100 people left, and they're in the printing division.

In 1997, one morning, a group of folks woke up who worked for Motive Power, and they read the headline: "Motive Power Moves Jobs to Mexico." And need I say more. It took a year for it to happen. We lost 50 jobs, good paying jobs. These were not what some people like to think, "Well, they're the jobs that we can afford to lose." I don't know what kind of jobs

they are, by the way. Any job that you know that's looking for a home, you can bring them over here to western Pennsylvania; we have someplace for them.

But these were jobs that were highly precisioned machine jobs, making \$16 an hour -- and I'm rounding it up; it was around 15 and change -- extremely good benefits. They went to down to San Luis, Mexico for \$3.37 an hour with no benefits, and the company just bragged like anything about they were probably the highest paid workforce in Mexico.

There was nothing we could do to save those jobs. We finally got the company to tell us that "Hey, if you can get three times the amount of production with the same workforce, the same machinery, and the same hours, maybe we can talk."

I had a meeting with the CEO, and I asked him if he would be willing to give his job up so in 20 years that the balance all over the world would be the same? He said he wouldn't, neither would I, and I don't think anybody in this room would either.

I was here this morning, and I was listening to President Sweeney and some of the comments that were being made. And something that struck me was, "Well, do we have a study on this, and do we have a study on that, and where's the details?" Well, I'm here today with some details.

When our workers lose their good jobs, they no longer look for the label, "Buy in America" or "Union Made;" they look at the price tag for the cheapest thing. Normally that's coming from overseas, which I think widens the deficit that we're talking about here today. But not only that, they can't provide the kind of living that they should be able provide in this country to their family.

Most of them get reemployed in what we were calling, quote, unquote, "service jobs," not computer technicians or computer programmers, but they get a service job that they're underpaid and usually no benefits. I think most of you have heard all over the country about a campaign that the National AFL-CIO has about a living wage. Years ago we didn't hear about the living wage. It's very important.

We have more people, I think, in this community who worked in the steel industry -- and I certainly can't talk as eloquently as George can about it -- but I know the electronic workers or electrical workers, if you please in manufacturing plants were retrained. Very few of them got any kind of employment the way they had it.

So, what do you have? We've all heard the term "win-win." In my opinion, what you have -- not in my opinion, factually, what I see, you have a lose-

lose. You lose a good job with benefits, and you get a job that does not pay anywhere near the same with no benefits, and you have a hard time educating your children, and you have a hard time just making a living and getting medical insurance, and that's why we have 44,000 -- excuse me, 44 million people that don't have medical care. That's a big piece of it; don't let anybody kid you.

So, with that, I see the red light on. George, I want to thank you for pulling this together. It's about time. Something has to be done. Something has to be done. When I started 33 years ago -- I can't wait another 33 years, because I won't be around. So, something has to be done, and I implore this Committee to make sure they do something to make a difference.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BECKER: Thank you very much, Jack.

CHAIRMAN WEIDENBAUM: George, unfortunately, I have to take off. I'm a captive of the airline schedule, but I want to thank Commissioner Becker for doing an excellent job, both at organizing this session and being an extremely fair Chairman of this session. Thank you kindly.

COMMISSIONER BECKER: I interpret that to mean too fair, but that's okay.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER BECKER: Do any of the Commissioners want to make a comment or say anything or should we continue?

Tom Croft? Rather than make the mistake I did with Jack in introducing him in one capacity and he spoke in another, I'm going to let each one of the individuals get up, identify themselves, and tell us in what capacity they're speaking.